

Town of



AMHERST

Massachusetts

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SELECT BOARD
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May 4, 2009

Frank A. Tramontozzi, P.E., Chief Engineer
Massachusetts Highway Department
10 Park Plaza
Boston, MA 02116-3973

RE: Comments on Manhan Rail Trail, Easthampton and Northampton, Massachusetts Project Key #604207.

Dear Mr. Tramontozzi:

The Amherst Select Board enthusiastically endorses the completion of the Manhan Rail Trail, a critical link to the Norwottuck Network of trails.

The Town has a long history of supporting public and alternative transportation options. As host community to the University of Massachusetts, the principal employer in the northern Pioneer valley, we recognize that many students and employees here and throughout the Five Colleges area make use of the trails for commuting to and from work or school, as well as for shopping and many other activities. Our trail system also serves as an attractive feature for many visitors to Amherst and the Pioneer Valley. The 2.7 mile Manhan Rail Trail connection to Easthampton completes a critical link in this system.

The availability of federal stimulus funding for the project presents a rare opportunity for advancing these environmentally sustainable and economically viable transportation goals. We join in support of this timely and important effort.

Sincerely,

Stephanie O'Keeffe, Chair
On behalf of the Amherst Select Board

cc: Mayor Higgins, City of Northampton
Mayor Tautznik, City of Easthampton
Representative John Olver, First Congressional District
Representative Richard Neal, Second Congressional District
Senator Stan Rosenberg
Representative Ellen Story
Friends of the Manhan Rail Trail
Friends of the Northampton Trails and Greenways

